

# Immigration Puts Ninth Circuit in Media Spotlight

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By OCE Public Information Office

Immigration has become the big story for the national media and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has been featured prominently in many of the reports published and aired recently.

Stories by the *Los Angeles Times* and the San Francisco legal newspaper *The Recorder*, a week-long series on CNN's "Lou Dobbs Tonight," and a report aired by the San Francisco affiliate of Spanish language network Univision all focused on the huge jump in immigration appeals and its impact on the federal appellate courts. Chief Judge Mary M. Schroeder and several of her colleagues were interviewed for the pieces.

In a story published May 3 by *The Recorder*, Chief Judge Schroeder talked of a recent visit to Washington, D.C., during which she met with members of Congress to talk about the problem. She said representatives from both sides of the aisle seemed open to discussing ways in which the immigration caseload could be reduced.

The story (click [here](#), available to paid subscribers only) noted that Rep. Howard Berman, D-Los Angeles, has introduced a bill in the current session that deals directly with the immigration backlog. Rep. Berman's Civil Liberties Restoration Act would undo the so-called streamlining of immigration appeals instituted in 2002 by then-Attorney General John Ashcroft, and abolish the Department of Justice's current system of immigration courts, replacing it with a more independent structure.

The May 2 *Los Angeles Times* article (click [here](#), registration required) featured remarks by Ninth Circuit Judges Michael Daly Hawkins and Dorothy Nelson, along with Clerk Cathy Catterson, a number of attorneys practicing immigration law, and several immigration judges. Judge Nelson described the onslaught of immigration cases as extraordinary and overwhelming, while Judge Hawkins expressed the frustration experienced by he and other circuit judges over the poor quality of decisions being made by some immigration judges.

The Univision segment aired May 2 and featured an interview with Spanish-speaking Ninth Circuit Judge Carlos Bea, who covered many of the same topics.